

The Power of Love

Lavishing an infant with our attention – our words, our hugs, our lullabies, our laughter – shapes the person that child becomes. The young brain translates our love into a strong inner self, a healthy physical body, and an even higher IQ.



New research about child development tells us:

- Genetic make-up determines only 50% of their mental, emotional and physical capacity. The care and loving attention we give them determines the rest.
- The first year is the most important in our children's development and also the entire period of ages 0-5.
- A strong connection between a mother and child — bonding — helps children to cope with the challenges they will experience.
- Children, whose fathers help care for them, have higher IQs, better self-control, greater ability to cope with difficult situations and are less likely to become violent.
- Reading to children while holding them fills a child's emotional needs in ways that the impersonal nature of TV cannot.
- Children who do not play much, or are rarely touched, develop brains 20 to 30 percent smaller than normal for their age.



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Just as love imprints itself on an infant's brain, so can abuse. The next step in this miraculous journey is in your hands.

For more information about child development, parenting, and resources call or write us for a free copy of the Wonder Years, a collaborative parenting newsletter of the Children's Trust Fund, Partnership for Learning, and Wayne RESA.

Another way to make a difference for children in your community is to purchase the new Children's License Plate, available through any Secretary of State branch office or on the web at www.sos.state.mi.us.



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**For a copy of the Wonder Years or other information call
Toll free 1-800-942-HELP or (517) 373-4320**